

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP IF
Hiraku Murayama et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3736
Application No.: 10/809,901)	Examiner: JEFFREY GERBEN
Filed: March 26, 2004)	HOEKSTRA
For: GUIDE WIRE)	Confirmation No.: 7688
)	

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability recently issued in connection with the above-identified application is accompanied by an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. The Statement of Reasons for Allowance refers to Claims 1-3 and 7-14, but does not distinguish between the three independent claims and does not acknowledge that the wording in the three claims is different. This paper is being filed simply to clarify the record and make clear that which is otherwise apparent -- namely that the comments in the Statement should not be understood to imply that Claims 1, 8 and 9 all set forth the language referenced in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

By way of example, the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance refer to "a center layer comprised of a first material; a mixture layer disposed on the center layer and comprising a decreased content of said first material towards an outer surface of said mixture layer and an increased content of a second material, harder than said first material, towards the outer surface; and/or a surface layer comprised of said second material and defining an outermost periphery of the guidewire," etc. While language like this is used in Claim 8, the same language is not set forth in Claims 1 and 9. Rather, Claim 1 provides "a center layer comprising a first material, a surface layer comprising a second material and defining an outermost periphery of said main body portion, and an intermediate layer having

a predetermined thickness and a predetermined length comprising a mixture of said first material and said second material, wherein the mixture of said first material and said second material in said intermediate layer has a decreased proportion of said first material toward said surface layer and an increased proportion of said second material toward said surface layer," etc. Still further, Claim 9 recites "a center layer comprising a first material, a surface layer comprising a second material, and an intermediate layer comprising a mixture of said first material and said second material, wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward an outermost periphery of said main body portion," etc..

It is thus understood that the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance are not intended to imply that the allowed claims in this application recite anything different than that which the claims themselves recite.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter or should the Examiner disagree in any way with the comments set forth herein, the Examiner is kindly asked to contact the undersigned so that such matter can be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: 7/7/09

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